(c) Due to sudden spurt in the demand for these Isomers there is a gap in the demand and supply position for these Isomers. However, to meet the temporary shortage, supplementary licence for import of these Isomers are being granted. Additional capacities for these items have been approved by the Government, to meet the future demand.

Terms of reference of committees on drug issues

707. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 603 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state:

(a) what are the terms of reference of the standing committee, expert groups and of the permanent standing committee;

(b) when was permanent standing committee constituted;

(c) what are the details of meetings held upto the 30th April, 1990 of expert groups, standing committee and permanent standing committee; and

(d) what are the details of recommendations make by the permanent standing committee to the Ministry so far and what action has been taken on each?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (d) On 5-2-1990, the Department of Chemicals and Petro-Chemicals have constituted a standing Committee to consider all matters connected with the review of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 and the representations made on various issues concerning Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1987 including inclusion/exclusion of drugs in the scheduled categories. According to the memorandum constituting the Standing Committee, 3 Exports Groups *viz.* Expert Group on Therapeutic issues, Expert Group on Technology issues and Expert Group on production and Turnover issues will assist the Standing Committee. These Expert Groups will examine all the issues concerning DPCO. 1987 and the representations received thereon and submit their reports of the Standing Committee for consideration and making a final recommendation to the Goverment. The Expert-Groups and the Standing Committee will meet once in 3 months or as and when required.

While the Expert Group on production and turnover issues has already met thrice, the other two Expert Groups as well as Standing Committee has met twice each. It is not in public interest to disclose the details of the recommendations of the Expert Groups as well as the Standing Committee at this stage.

Recovery of the amount due on Flucinolone Acetonide

708. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 710 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state :

(a) what are the points on which his Ministry has sought the opinion of the Law Ministry in respect of Flucinolone Acetonide;

(b) when was the opinion sought and what in the opinion of the Law Ministry on those issues; and

(c) by when the amount due from the company would be recovered ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a) The opinion of the Department of Legal Affairs was sought on the question of coverage of Flucinolone Acetonide and its formulations under Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979 and recovery of the amounts overcharged by the company;

(b) The opinion was sought in March, 1990. Law Mtnisrty have advised that company should be proceeded against in terms of Paragraph 7 and 13 of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1979.

(c) The company was given time upto 10th May, 1990 to furnish details|furnish reply to the notices. Further action would follow after receipt of their replies and the details which have been called for.

Communications to drug companies

709. SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 648 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry sent communications to drug companies involved in Supreme Court case after the judgement was delivered;

(b) if so, the names of the companies, the details of the communications sent and the date on which each communicatinon was sent;

(c) what are the details of replies received;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Special Team assessed dues on bulk drug differences in certain cases and in others on formulations;

(e) if so, what are the names of drugs and formulations in each case and what is the amount on each drug and formulation;

(f) what are the reasons for different steps taken;

(g) who was the convenor of Special Team and what is his designation;

(h) whether it is a fact that his Ministry received complaints against him; and

(i) if so, what are the details thereof and what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) to (c) information to the extent available would be collected and laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(d) to (f). The Special Team assessed dues on bulk drugs only in cases of certain companies where both bulk drugs and formulations were involved. In those cases where only formulations were involved the dues were assessed in respect of the formulations only. In view of the large number of complaints that have been received, findings of the Special Team and the developments thereafter are being looked into afresh.

(g) The Convenor of the Special Team was Shri R. N. Tandon and his designation is Joint Director (Chemicals).

(h) and (i) The matter is being looked into.

Findings of the special team on drugs

710. CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 648 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 19th March, 1990 and state :

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry accepted the findings of Special Team in toto;

(b) when was the Special Team appointed and when was the complete findings submitted to his Ministry.

(c) whether it is a fact that the Special Team is still in existence;

(d) if so, by when the complete assessment of all companies would be finalised; and

(e) what are the details of the findings of the Special Team ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY) : (a), (b) and (e) A